

# I-17 project to shut down Deer Valley Road ramps

by **Dolores Tropiano** - Apr. 10, 2008 06:02 PM  
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Major restrictions start later this month on Interstate 17's Deer Valley Road exit ramps.

The restrictions are part of major road widening work along I-17 in the North Valley.

Drivers will not be able to use the southbound exit ramps at Deer Valley Road starting next Saturday. The northbound exit ramps will permanently close April 26.

New signs and message boards will direct drivers to access Deer Valley Road by using Rose Garden Lane and the freeway's frontage roads.

"We definitely want to make drivers aware so they know about the closures," said Laura Douglas, spokeswoman for the Arizona Department of Transportation. "But at the same time, there are ways to access Deer Valley Road, even though those two ramps are going to be shut down."

The northbound I-17 ramp closure is necessary to eliminate a daily point of congestion for northbound drivers caused by the merging of I-17 and the Loop 101 traffic. Northbound drivers will be able to access Deer Valley Road in the future at the Rose Garden Lane exit.

The southbound ramp, which accommodates traffic going westbound on Deer Valley Road, will remain closed for nearly one year while the interchange is reconstructed.

The Deer Valley Road interchange reconstruction is one of several I-17 improvement projects underway as part of the Valley-wide Regional Transportation Plan.

The long-awaited expansion of I-17 north of Loop 101 began in February.

The \$141 million project will give the freeway four lanes in each direction along a 9-mile stretch between Loop 101 and Carefree Highway. Now, it is two lanes in each direction.

The project is scheduled for completion by the end of 2009.